

REMARKS

The drawings and specification have been objected to due to informalities. The drawings and specification have been amended accordingly.

Claims 15, 16, 20-24 and 28 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Polikaitis; and claims 17-19 and 25-26 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Polikaitis in view of Wu. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention, as amended, performs a speech recognition which yields words, pauses and boundaries between pauses and words. The average word volume and the average pause volume is then determined based on the recognition result, i.e. the knowledge regarding which part of the voice signal is recognized as a word and which part is recognized as a pause. The result of the recognition is corrected such that a word, whose volume distance between the average word volume and the average silence volume is lower than a predetermined threshold, is evaluated as having been incorrectly recognized. Neither Polikaitis nor Wu disclose these features.

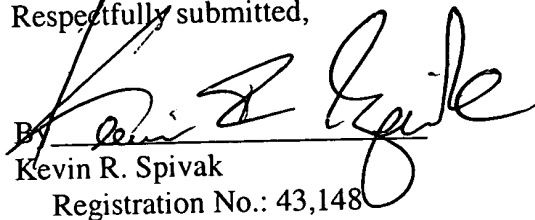
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.

449122015600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: November 25, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


By _____

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Attachments